

Global food scare widens from
Japan nuclear plant pg 2

Drivers License Bureau
being revamped pg 3

Int'l. exposition Destination
Innovation pg 5

CATA 2011 welcomes over 85 tourism executives from Latin America



Left to right CEO of AAA Peter Steinmetz, Myrna Jansen, CEO AHATA Jim Hepple, CEO ATA Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes, Minister Oduber, and Sanju Luidens



Latin American tour operators

The 22nd annual Conferencia Annual de Turismo de Aruba, CATA, officially opened yesterday morning at the Hyatt Regency Resort, with top Latin American tour operators and airline executives attending. Latin and Central American countries represented at this year's event include Bolivia, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru and Ecuador. Veteran

travel experts have come to network with Aruba Tourism Authority reps and management, along with private sector partners in the island's principal pillar of the economy.

Delegates were officially welcomed by Minister of Tourism, Transport, Labor & Industry, Otmar Oduber as well as the CEO of ATA, Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes and the CEO of the Aruba Hotel



Guest Speaker German Herebia

and Tourism Association, AHATA, Jim Hepple.

The opening day theme was the glamour and glitz of the Aruba International Film Festival, with AIFF co-founder, Jonathan Vieira, present to welcome the delegates and respond to queries.

As Aruba strives to diversify its tourist demographic, Latin American nations with strong economies such as Brazil and Argentina are of great interest to marketing executives.

Continued on page 2

Conference of Kingdom Ambassadors to the region



Prime Minister Mike Eman with TNO Delft rep Jan Ebbing



Van de Capello, Kingdom Ambassador to Colombia with Foreign office staff

A two-day conference welcoming 13 Ambassadors of the Dutch Kingdom to the Western Hemisphere nations commenced yesterday morning at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad, and will finish this evening.

Prime Minister Mike Eman personally welcomed the ambassadors, most assigned to Caribbean, Central and Latin American countries, in an effort to unite the region in common goals and create liaisons that will be beneficial socially and economically.

Yesterday's presentations beginning with Jan Ebbing of TNO Delft, Holland, were at-

tended by interested parties and staff members of Aruba's Foreign Offices as well as Aruba's Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, Jocelyne Croes.

Following words of welcome from Prime Minister Mike Eman and his belief in strategic partnerships among the nations of the region, Jan Ebbing presented a business plan for a project they are sure could prove beneficial to all, an Aruban research and educational institution dedicated to developing viable and affordable methods of harnessing renewable energy sources.

Continued on page 5

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Global food scare widens from Japan nuclear plant

TOKYO, Japan (AFP) — Countries across the world have shunned Japanese food imports as radioactive steam leaked from a disaster-struck nuclear plant, straining nerves in Tokyo.

The grim toll of dead and missing from Japan's monster earthquake and tsunami on March 11 topped 26,000. Hundreds of thousands remained huddled in evacuation shelters and fears grew in Tokyo over water safety.

The damage to the Fukushima nuclear plant from the tectonic calamity and a series of explosions has stoked global anxiety. The United States and Hong Kong have already restricted Japanese food, and France wants the European Union to do the same.

Russia ordered a halt to food imports from four prefectures -- Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki and Tochigi -- near the

stricken plant some 250 kilometres (155 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

Moscow also quarantined a Panama-flagged cargo ship that had passed near the plant and put its 19 crew under medical supervision after detecting radiation levels three times the norm in the engine room.

Australia banned produce from the area, including seaweed and seafood, milk, dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables.

It said, however, that Japanese food already on store shelves was safe, as it had shipped before the quake, and that "the risk of Australian consumers being exposed to radionuclides in food imported from Japan is negligible."

Canada implemented enhanced import controls on products from the four prefectures.

Singapore suspended imports of milk products and other foodstuffs from the same four prefectures, as well as all food products from two more -- Chiba and Ehime.

The city-state's move came after officials found "radioactive contaminants" in four samples of vegetables from Japan, though the authorities stressed the radiation levels in the produce were still very low.

The Philippines banned Japanese chocolate imports, and Indonesia asked that Japan certify its exported processed foods as radiation-free.

"Food safety issues are an additional dimension of the emergency," said three UN agencies in a joint statement issued in Geneva, pledging they were "committed to mobilising their knowledge and expertise" to help Japan.

Japan was taking the right actions, said the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Health Organization, and Food and Agriculture Organization.

CATA 2011 welcomes over 85 tourism executives from Latin America

Continued from page 1



At left, Devoted Aruban fan - tour operator Gloria, at right, Doris Garcia of Colombian tour company with Vicky Perez of Radisson



"Unfortunately, the demand to travel to Aruba is far greater than the amount of airlift offered at this time," commented Myrna Jansen, former ATA director and now a part of Minister Oduber's team. "We are addressing this, and courting airlines, which we hope will provide direct flights. Presently, travelers from these nations have to find connections through Copa Airlines in Panama; those from Argentina are often required to fly first to Miami and then back to Aruba."

Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz addressed the gathering regarding the increasing facilities of the Reina Beatrix International Airport, and cited that this year arrivals are up to and appear to be going beyond 2008 numbers, which are the record arrival statistics Aruba seeks to enlarge upon for healthy growth.

Guest speaker for this year's CATA was German Herebia, CEO and Co-founder of INTEXTUAL.net and AdsMovil; he is Executive Director of Programming and Online Publicity for the University of Palermo, Italy. His



ATA personnel and Astrid Muller (in center)

specialty is Internet Marketing and Sales Management and he professes to be "passionate about learning and teaching online marketing."

During their days on the island, delegates were treated to a special exposition dedicated to Aruba's silver anniversary of "Status Aparte," - autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, at the Insight Art Gallery. Their days were also filled with inspecting the renovations and upgrades to many of the island resorts over the last few years.

Today they will be caught up in the whirlwind of the Resort Marketplace, which includes presentations by all AHATA members and associate members, where they are able to inquire about hotel amenities and network with sales managers and personnel. Marriott Resort is hosting the event as well as a lunch dedicated to another popular annual event on Aruba, the Soul Beach Music Festival.

by Rosalie Klein

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Pointers to Ponder

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The 6 Little Things that Make a Huge Difference -- Part II

Last edition I shared with you three of the little things that make a huge difference in our lives.

After contemplating all the many things that came to mind, I finally narrowed my list down to what I believe to be the six little things that make a big difference. I did not include money in my list because I have seen how money can subtly deceive people and cause them to be so engulfed in it to the point of not having time for others. The first three little things that make such a huge difference on my list are: saying Masha DankiThank You, Showing Kindness, and Listening Attentively.

Today, I am presenting the other three little things that make a big difference.

4. Give sincere praise.

Just about everyone I meet and know appreciates being appreciated, though how they prefer it to be expressed varies. But in general, and with very few exceptions, an honest compliment is something that is always welcome. Sincere praise creates instant rapport, and bridges many an awkward gap. It causes people to connect almost immediately. There is always, always something that you can praise or compliment somebody for. This is another one of those little things that make such a huge difference in people's lives. We love getting compliments, and in the same way others love getting them from

us. There is something magical about a compliment, it sounds like sweet music in someone's ears, and it breaks down walls of mistrust and even shyness.

Giving praise definitely is one of those little things that make a huge difference! The next little thing that makes a huge difference is:

5. Practice Good manners.

Good manners are the lubricant for all social involvements. They oil the machine of humanity. Using good manners conveys respect, both for self and for others. I know, we have lost the sense of respect for each other today. It seems that especially young people consider respect old fashion or something to be shunned. Civility in conversation allows everyone the opportunity to express themselves fully and be heard. The use of good manners allows you to engage in meaningful conversation. Good manners are the foundation of polite society, and politeness can be both charming and disarming. You can use good manners and social graces to win the heart of someone you love, court a client, ease your way with authority. Good manners will open many doors of opportunity for you. Good manners will set you far above the rest and cause others to be drawn to you as a model and example. The sixth little thing that makes a huge difference is:

6. Share.

Whether it's your pastechis

or your time, share. Everyone reading this article right now has something to share, some talent, some time, some money, some compassion, and some fun that they could share with others. We live in an abundant Universe, with plenty for everyone, if we'd only share. You know God who made the universe gave us the best example of sharing; He shared His only Son with the world. He shared Him so that we may be spared eternal damnation.

Today we rejoice in the prospect of Heaven because of what He shared with the world! Now we need to follow suit and begin to share with others. Share with everyone, the choller, the derelict, the nice person and the needy child, the organization struggling to accomplish their noble goal...share, share! It is definitely one of the little things that make a huge difference!

Now you have them, 6 little things that make a huge difference in the lives of people and in your own life. These 6 things will revolutionize your life and set you apart from the rest of the crowd.

They will bring immeasurable satisfaction and blessing to you and they will do wonders for those with whom you interact everyday at home and in your daily contacts on the job and on the street.

If this was helpful, please let me know, write to: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Drivers License Bureau being revamped

ORANJESTAD -- Last month, February, Aruba's Police Chief decided, after evaluating the deplorable condition of the Drivers License Bureau, to take urgent steps to renovate this Office and to correct the situation as quickly as possible. The process took place in consultation with the Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers.

The first step in the renovation process was to create more work space in the Offices to facilitate more areas for submitting the forms, and more computers for the processing of documents. Instead of one reception window, there are now four such windows offering service to the public for the

renewal or change of drivers' licenses. They also created a waiting room and decided to introduce office hours from 8:00am through to 3:00pm.

The next phase, which has already begun, is to create parking space so as to avoid clients from parking on the sidewalks and other pavements. There is a spacious parking area next to the building, and all the abandoned old cars on the lot will be removed. The area will be cleaned completely and made ready.

With respect to the office procedure: petitions for drivers licenses will be controlled via the CENSO (Census Office) system. Once confirmed by the

Census Office, the person's information will be printed on a rose colored form, a photo will be affixed, the person signs the form and the form is then scanned.

Special scanning equipment has been brought in from Holland which will scan the drivers license petitions which in turn are sent digitally to the Netherlands where the drivers licenses are produced. Once the information has been sent to Holland, it is expected that within two weeks the new drivers licenses will arrive on Aruba to be verified and eventually distributed.

Continued on page 4

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Government elated with private sector support



Minister of Public Health and Sports, Richard Visser, in a recent press conference, remarked that..."I'm extremely happy that Aruba Bank, the first private company, has extended a helping hand to help us combat the mosquitoes that transmit the dengue disease." During a recent visit to the Netherlands, the minister met with Soper Strategies and discussed ways for eliminating the dengue bearing mosquitoes permanently in Aruba.

As a result of the heavy rain showers and many open water deposits, Aruba is faced with a serious problem with these dengue transmitting mosquitoes. Many of these open water deposits have become fertile breeding areas for these mosquitoes.

Aruba Bank sponsored the visit of the group from the Netherlands, who within a couple of days did an extensive investigation of the situation on Aruba and presented a one year plan which would cost a staggering 2 million Euros to implement.

With this plan, the Dutch group guarantees that we could completely, totally eradicate the dengue carrying mosquito.

According to Visser ... "For us to achieve great things, we will need the support of everyone in the community." The minister continued to indicate that he was very pleased that the

community is extending a helping hand. GKMB (department of yellow fever mosquito eradication) is working very hard. The Department of Public Health, our doctors, the Hospital and now even the private sector is offering initiatives that will benefit our people." The minister concluded by saying that..."It is our hope that just as Aruba Bank there would be other private companies that would follow suit and join efforts in an alliance with the government to work together on combating Dengue and to making Aruba Dengue free."

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Drivers License Bureau being revamped

Continued from page 3

The Office is now in the process of evaluating the entire administrative system to ascertain exactly what every employee does so as to come up with a specific job description and a new structure for the Office and to eliminate any unnecessary forms.

This entire process will take some time to complete. In the interim there will be a numbers system in the waiting room with an electronic announcer. There will also be a coffee of pot for waiting clients to enjoy while they wait their turn for assistance at one of the four windows.

One set back at this moment is that the special registration form has run out. An early request for a refill was sent to Holland, but instead of receiving the 5,000 they

ordered, the Dutch company shipped only 3,000 copies to Aruba. A new order was sent for an additional 15,000 but there has been a delay in receiving these here. They are in constant contact with the Dutch supplier. This special form is very important in the administration process for it is on this form that the special code and the driver's data are affixed prior to being scanned.

The Police Force is doing its utmost to provide the best possible professional service to the general public at this Office. Hence, the organization can depend on the support of the Minister of Justice and his staff to ensure that the process of renovation is completed the soonest possible.

BACK THEN

Mother Nature has forever more than generously provided healing and curing sources for all living creatures. As humanity developed and moved away from its original sites on floating crafts on the world's waterways and wild horses were tamed across the lands, traders, roamers, conquerors and explorers began their treks taking with them their cultural behavior and their methods for sustaining life.

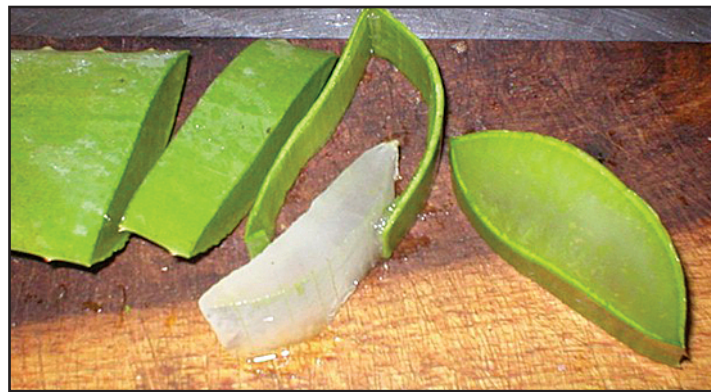
Long before scientists and doctors found ways to heal and prevent disease, men and women brewed and stewed, pounded and chopped, liquified and preserved Mother Nature's medicine chest. Today's researchers, computers notwithstanding, are often returning to the origins of the world's civilizations in their quests for healing.



Basora Preto

bai no bolbe plant that grows near the sea, long used to prevent pregnancies, does indeed lessen fertility. In never-ending use is tea made from *basora pretu* (black sage) for stomach aches and intestinal cramps. *Walishali*, botanically known

for purifying the liver. The American Medical Association recently recommended an old Aruban remedy, though not with attribution, for a sore throat. Gargle with a few drops of hot sauce, such as Tabasco, in a half glass of warm water. Arubans use the local potent Madame Jeanet pepper. Papaya, an excellent aid to digestion, is now available in pill and powder form if your backyard or local food purveyor



Aloe Vera gel

In Aruba, "the old ways" are still in use. *Curiosos* or *curanderas* who have generational-learned knowledge of medicinal herbs, plants and flowers are still sought out for their remedies for a wide assortment of ailments. It is, of course, possible that there is a modicum of superstition involved relating to their concoctions and methods. Even so,

as croton flaven, is used to cure a stuffy nose: rub a few leaves together and breathe in the fragrant vapors. For a longer lasting effect, wrap crushed leaves in a clean handkerchief to carry throughout the day.

Aloe vera, which grows wherever it wants to on the island as well as cultivated for export, is still the super plant for an assortment of whatever ails young, middle and old. Used in its purest form, the gel cut out from the strong protective leaves, leads a list of cures, including, it is said, to grown hair on balding scalps. The first recorded pharmaceutical use was found on a Sumerian clay tablet dating back to 1750 BC. Cleopatra used it as a beauty aid. Aloe vera is still considered the world's finest healer for burns and skin injuries.

It is also used as a general tonic in combination with other elements, such as pure coconut oil or pure honey, depending on the concoction blender. It is an important aid



Papaya

since the mind is the greatest healer of all, there is no reason to dismiss their efficacy entirely.

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Walishali leaf

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International exposition Destination Innovation registration closes today



Laureen Dix of KvK with Azriah Palm and Carols Martinus of EPI Science and Tech Unit

Laureen Dix of Aruba's Chamber of Commerce, (KvK) reported during a Tuesday press conference that registration for Aruba's exposition dedicated to developing technology necessary for doing business today, "Destination Innovation" is approaching the closing date for registration to participate. Official closing date to register is today, March 25; registration forms can be downloaded at their website: <http://www.aruba-chamber.com>. This international expo will take place in the Renaissance Convention Center on Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28.

Azriah Palm and Carlos Martinus of the EPI School of Science and Technology were present to reveal some plans for the upcoming event, which will include several innovation projects executed by students as part of a Science Fair. The teachers report they are extremely encouraged by the students' enthusiasm for the challenge and the overwhelming support they have received from several business interests in sponsoring their various projects. "This is an opportunity for Aruba to demonstrate the ingenuity, intelligence and capabilities of its youth during an international platform," stated Mr. Martina.

Presently, 50% of the available booths have been commissioned by companies from Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Holland and the United States; visitors can expect to see the latest innovations in technology that will advance their business. Participating vendors will be giving 15 minute public presentations regarding their specialties and have representatives available to elaborate on their products and services. "The KvK sees innovation not only as an economic necessity for growth, but also as the essence of entrepreneurship. Real entrepreneurship is synonymous to continuous change for the best," stated Ms. Dix.

Confirmed participants in-

clude Exper, NV, a temporary manpower service, Eledtron, an energy-saving concern, Proffid, offering advanced technology for the resort industry, K & R Holdings, producers of Safe-glo materials for safety during power failures, Arubook, a complete online and Android guide to local services and vendors, A.C.C., offering money-saving solutions for climate control, Pro-Tec, designers and builders of automated energy and environmental systems, and ASAruba payroll systems. The KvK will also have a booth to assist all who are interested in starting a business on Aruba in understanding the necessary steps to do so. Aruba Freezone, which offers a safe haven for companies wishing to do business amidst unstable socio-economic and political factors throughout Latin America and a profitable way to transfer goods around the region as well as to and from the EU and elsewhere, will also be present.

The philosophy behind the upcoming Destination Innovation Expo will be expounded upon during a workshop on Tuesday, March 29 in the auditorium of the KvK building on Irawsquien Boulevard titled "Entrepreneurship and Innovation," with facilitator Edward Erasmus. The workshop aims to provide some clear answers to what is innovation in this day and age and revolves around the idea as a basic instrument of entrepreneurship, no matter the size of your business. It will use a highly interactive approach and aims to provide practical tools to aid small and medium-sized businesses in particular to understand, develop and implement innovation strategies to succeed in a highly competitive environment.

For more information and registration for the various KvK activities as well as the upcoming expo and workshop, visit their website or contact their Department of Business Information & Support at 582-1566 extensions 27, 35, or 42.

by Rosalie Klein

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Conference of Kingdom Ambassadors...

Continued from page 1



Kingdom Ambassador of U.S. Renee Jones Bos.

After a round table discussion and lunch break, Aruba's Minister of Social and Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, addressed the gathering regarding "The Green Gateway-Towards Sustainable Economic Development."

Today, Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport, Labor and Industry, Otmar Oduber, will open the conference, which



Kingdom Ambassador to DR and Haiti, Rita Dulchi Rahman center with FO staffers Eleisah Williams and Geraldine Blom Ras

will finish with a tour of the "jewel in the crown" of Aruba's efforts to maintain and preserve the natural environment, Arikok National Park. A sunset toast will be followed by the final address by Minister of Immigration, Infrastructure and Environment, Benny Sevinger.

The purpose of the conference, according to advisor Greg Peterson, who founded the Aruba Bird Conservation Foundation, is "to deploy all the practical means available to

Aruba, as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in reaching out to the nations of the region in advancing the island's "Green" agenda."

Kingdom Ambassadors serving the U.S., Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic/Haiti, Argentina, Brazil, Nicaragua, Cuba, Colombia, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela as well as Curacao and St. Maarten were present for the rounds of talks.

by Rosalie Klein

Sci-Tech

Wind, solar becoming cost competitive: Chu



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Clean sources of energy such as wind and solar will be no more expensive than oil and gas projects by the end of the decade, US Energy Secretary Steven Chu said Wednesday.

President Barack Obama's administration has been encouraging companies to invest in green growth, calling

it a new source of jobs and fearing that other nations -- led by China -- are stealing the march.

"Before maybe the end of this decade, I see wind and solar being cost-competitive without subsidy with new fossil fuel," Chu told an event at the Pew Charitable Trusts.

"So the country and the

companies who develop those renewable energy and resources that become cost competitive without subsidy all of a sudden have a world market. And, boy, we can't lose that world market," he said.

The US Congress has rejected attempts to mandate curbs on carbon emissions blamed for climate change, with many members of the Republican Party arguing that reducing dependence on fossil fuels would be too expensive.

But the Obama administration has been hoping to seek bipartisan cooperation on what it hopes are less controversial efforts such as encouraging renewable energy.

Both the administration and Republicans have defended the pursuit of nuclear power -- which causes virtually no carbon emissions -- despite radiation concerns in Japan from a plant hit by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Adidas wants generalised 'Better Cotton' use by 2018: report

BERLIN (AFP) — The German sporting goods group Adidas wants to make all its cotton clothing with material that has earned the "Better Cotton" label by 2018, an executive said Tuesday in a press interview.

"We want to increase the part of 'Better Cotton' as quickly as possible, and use only that by 2018," Frank Henke, head of environmental and social issues at Adidas, told the business daily Handelsblatt.

The label is attributed to cotton raised with a minimum of pesticides and by methods that limit the amount of water used, while also providing sustainable work in decent conditions, the newspaper explained.

Last year, Adidas had more than 300 million pieces of clothing produced from cotton and synthetic fibres, both for taking part in sports and leisure wear.

It has been criticised by environmental and human rights groups for the negative impact of production methods in some of the factories that make its clothing.



Co-founder of UN Cells, Bobby Yampolsky poses with a mobile phone that his company made for Swiss luxury watchmaker Ulysse Nardin claimed to be "the world's first and fine luxury hybrid smart phone," integrating a mechanical watch rotor into the telephone, during a preview day at the Baselworld fair in Basel. With younger generations opting to use their mobile phones to tell time, the watch-making industry is being forced to go more high-tech to recapture consumers. On show at Baselworld, the biggest watch and jewellery fair this year, are not only complex diamond encrusted mechanical watches with complex movements, but an increasing number of watches with a link to the smartphone. AFP PHOTO



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New startup Color builds community with photos

PALO ALTO, California (AFP) — The founder of an online music service snapped up by Apple more than a year ago is out to weave smartphone users into spontaneous communities through instant image sharing.

Color, lets owners of Apple or Android smartphones automatically share pictures with any other nearby users of the service.

"It takes the concept of Twitter to a whole new crazy place," Nguyen told AFP while demonstrating Color at his startup's headquarters in a pair of rented storefronts in the Silicon Valley city of Palo Alto.

"Every time you turn on this app, it's like a bat, it connects into every other phone around you," he continued, bat cufflinks in the sleeves of his shirt.

Bain Capital, Sequoia Capital, and Silicon Valley Bank have pumped \$41 million in investment money into Color, which Nguyen said was inspired by Apple heralding the start of a "post-PC era."

Nguyen's previous startup was online music site Lala, which was purchased by the maker of iPhones, iPads, iPods, and Macintosh computers in December 2009.

Lala hosted digital music collections on the Web, allowing access from varied locations in what it described as "music in the clouds."

Lala also scanned iTunes collections and then stocked Lala account libraries with the same songs on the premise they had already been purchased.

It remains to be seen what Apple has planned for Lala, which it closed last year. Nguyen left Apple in September to start Color.

"If I could do a tribute to Apple and what I learned, this would be it," Nguyen said of Color. "We are creating something brand new; the network is going to be created just by people being around each other."

The post-PC (personal computer) era is marked by a shift from desktop computers

to smartphones and tablet devices, Apple visionary Steve Jobs has proclaimed.

"What I saw in Apple products was that this was a world driven by actually using information while you are up and about doing things," Nguyen said. "It had the potential to be social in a way very different from the way the Web was."

Nguyen shunned a Facebook model that he saw as a colossal social network connecting far-flung friends or family, opting instead to let people with smartphones get to know those nearby.

"I wanted to build a system that would give you almost a small town feel again," Nguyen said.

Free Color applications for iPhones and Android devices will let people in close proximity to one another communally capture pictures, videos, and text messages.

Smartphone users activate Color applications and devices do the rest with no need to upload, log in, or identify users.

"Basically, every camera around you is your camera, instantly," Nguyen said.

Color software taps into smartphone gyroscopes to figure out whom in a crowd, say at a stadium rock concert, is closest to the central attraction and which cameras are apt to have the best pictures.

Concertgoers in distant seats get images from people nearby, possible friends, as well as from those in the front row.

Color users can keep all shared images taken at gatherings, with links between smartphones severing after they leave.

"When you post photos to Facebook, there is this weird single perspective to it; it is just your view of your life," Nguyen said. "We thought that was lame; we can do better."

Color identifies phones, not people, so no personal data is gathered from users. Abusing the service will result in a phone being blocked from Color.



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Gene screen shows wider picture of blood cancer

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists yesterday published the broadest picture yet of the likely genetic causes of multiple myeloma, a common form of blood cancer in which malignant white blood cells proliferate unchecked.

The map comes courtesy of a trawl through the DNA of 38 people with the disease, according to the research carried out by 21 institutions in North America.

White blood cells develop in the bone marrow and make antibodies that help the immune system fight microbes. Multiple myeloma cripples these defences, leaving victims dangerously exposed to infections.

The survival rate is poor compared to other cancers. About 20,000 new cases are diagnosed in the United States each year, and fewer than 40 percent survive to

five years.

Genomic sequencing entails looking through the DNA code for tiny variations that could explain why some people are at risk of disease while others are not.

The cost of sequencing has fallen sharply in recent years, which means researchers are able to cast their net wider than before. Previous studies into multiple myeloma have been able to look only at the DNA of a single patient.

"For the first time we are able to see on a molecular basis what might be causing this malignancy," said David Siegel of the John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University, New Jersey.

"We already know what causes many types of cancer, but until now we had few clues to the causes of myeloma."

A preliminary analysis of the DNA variations suggests there are common pathways, especially in the cellular protein-making machine, that enable a malignant cell to survive, invade and spread.

The initial benefit from this is understanding more about the basics of multiple myeloma.

Eventually, doctors hope, it will lead to drugs to block the disease.

"It's going to take a lot of biological research to sort out whether these will make good drug targets," said Todd Golub, director of the cancer programme at the Broad Institute of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"But this is an example of how genetic analysis can help point the field in the right direction very dramatically."

Australia carries out its first hand transplant

SYDNEY (AFP) - A man who lost his hands and feet to a bacterial infection four years ago has become Australia's first recipient of a hand transplant, a report said Thursday.

Peter Walsh, 65, underwent the successful nine-hour operation in Sydney this week.

"Peter was wriggling his fingers today," Professor Wayne Morrison, who led the 20-strong surgical team, told the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

"We actually don't want him to be moving his hand yet, but it's demonstrating everything is connected. Everything is on track."

Walsh lost his hands, most of his left leg and part of his right foot four years ago to a bacterial infection which almost claimed his life.

"I'm not one for holding hands but it would mean so much to have hands again," said Walsh, a grandfather of 16. "I don't know who gave it to me, but I am so thankful for what they have done."

Drug prevents diabetes in high-risk people: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Actos, a medicine that treats adult onset diabetes, also prevented the development of the disease in more than 70 percent of people who are considered high risk, according to findings announced this week.

The results could help tens of millions of pre-diabetics in the world, including 40 million Americans, who are considered high risk because of excessive weight, ethnicity or other predispositions.

An Actos (pioglitazone) pill taken each morning prevented the onset of Type 2 (adult) diabetes in 72 percent of the 602 high-risk participants in the study, whose findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Researchers also said they found among participants a 31 percent decrease in the rate of thickening of the carotid artery, a major vessel that supplies blood to the brain.

"It's a blockbuster study," said Ralph DeFronzo, professor of medicine at University of Texas at San Antonio, and principal author of the study.

"The 72 percent reduction

is the largest decrease in the conversion rate of pre-diabetes to (Type 2) diabetes that has ever been demonstrated by any intervention, be it diet, exercise or medication," DeFronzo said.

Type 2 diabetes, if uncontrolled, can lead to serious medical problems including heart disease, kidney damage, amputation and blindness.

Actos, manufactured by Takeda, Japan's largest pharmaceutical company, is widely used by people with Type 2 diabetes to help the body better use insulin. Along with a healthy diet and exercise, it helps lower blood glucose (sugar) levels, according to the company's website.

Takeda funded "an independent investigator grant" to DeFronzo to conduct the new study, during which some patients were tracked for up to four years. The average follow-up was 2.4 years, they said.

Participants were chosen because of their high risk for diabetes, including obesity, family history and impaired glucose tolerance. Side effects included weight gain and fluid retention.

Fish therapy



Kangal fish, also called Doctor fish, nibble the feet of a tourist at a Thai Medical center in Prague. The fish live and breed in the outdoor pools of some Turkish spas, where they feed on the skin of patients with psoriasis. The fish are like combfishes in that they only consume the affected and dead areas of the skin, leaving the healthy skin to grow, with the outdoor location of the treatment bringing beneficial effects. The spas are not meant as a curative treatment option, only as a temporary alleviation of symptoms, and patients usually revisit the spas every few months. Some patients have experienced complete cure of psoriasis after repeated treatments, but due to the unpredictable nature of the disease, which is strongly influenced by endogenous factors, this may simply be regression toward the mean. (AFP photo)

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Various radio and television stations, including Canal 90, Top FM, Latina, Tele Aruba, ITV 49 Canal 22, Boletín Extra and 24 hours have already confirmed their participation along with Magic and ATV, who are the 2 biggest supporters of this project. These radio and TV stations have already confirmed, but the invitation is still open to any media who would like to support this cause.

The goal of Man na Curaçon is to get individuals and businesses to complete a monthly standing order for a minimum of 25 Aruban florins a month for a minimum of one year. For those unable to participate in the monthly standing order, but still wish to donate to the great cause we will be selling a specially designed T-shirt – with the Man na Curaçon logo - for the day. All proceeds going to the FPNC.

In case you can't make it to South Beach Center during this big day, we have a special road team of 6 cars prepared to come to you so you can fill out your standing order form.

At this event the day will be

filled with entertainment like bands such as Tsunami, The Failures and Idol Mist, dance groups, face painting and dino-jump for the children, and much, much more. Also there is a unique performance with more than 20 of our local artists on stage at the same time singing the song “Stand by Me” which they recorded for this unique occasion!

There will also be many great prizes from various sponsors around the island including dinners, a weekend stay at the Aruba Marriott, and weekend stay at the Curacao Marriott-including airfare, Gift Certificates, DVD Set for cars, airline tickets and the big prize will be a brand new BRAND NEW BYD FO car courtesy of Garage Cordia;

The first 15 people who complete a standing order, will also receive a breakfast at Café Rembrandt, Buster's Garage or Segafredo's.

Don't forget, when you come to fill in the standing order please bring your ID and bank information, and for the company's filling out standing orders, the person who fills in the voucher must be authorized by the company to do so.

FPNC has invited our politicians and influential people to be present to show their solidarity for helping those people in need. We also have a list of local celebrities who will be on stage to MC the events for the day.



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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

A silver anniversary is extra special in Aruba



Life together is a laugh a minute

Like many, Jan and John Powarzynski of Wisconsin wanted to make the celebration of their silver wedding anniversary a particularly memorable occasion. Deciding how to do it was a no-brainer, a trip to the one Caribbean island they felt worth returning to, Aruba.

Jan and John first vacationed here 20 years ago, and though the like to "bounce around and try different islands" on their annual get-aways, Aruba is the only one they ever felt inclined to return to. Their anniversary celebration is their fourth trip back since first discovering the island in 1991.

"We have always stayed in Palm Beach, so we decided to explore the option of a resort in Oranjestad," explains John at their choice in making the Renaissance Ocean Suites their abode for the week; they are please with the easy access to so many fine restaurants. However, when it came to their big night, they opted for the romantic beach dinner package offered by the resort, where they had the shorefront to



Personal service on the beach



A sunset toast

themselves, and an attentive personal waiter to pour their champagne whenever they held up their glass.

It was a stunning sunset that accompanied their shrimp cocktail as the Wisconsin couple savored and sipped a fine vintage and created a special memory. A private beach dinner for two, watching the sun dip below the horizon is the ultimate romantic fantasy experience and most Aruban resorts will provide this for their

guests. If looking for a way to make some singular memories, talk to your resort concierge well in advance, as they can only take one couple per night. This is the perfect medium for marriage proposals, honeymoon and anniversary dinners, or as a way to stoke those romantic embers and make any night in Aruba extra special, it has no equal—ask John and Jan!

by Rosalie Klein

Urban renewal exposition opens to the Public



Minister Benny Sevinger who has Infrastructure under his watch, some months hence, installed a so-called "Infra Commission," which is the commission in charge of the infrastructural planning of our island. Several forums were organized, dubbed, "Urban Renovation One and Two" which were held in San Nicolaas and in Oranjestad in the months of June and September of last year.

During these forums, our people, especially those in the barrios, were able to interact and share ideas with the Dutch experts. The American Planners Association and the University of Pennsylvania were able to transform this interchange of ideas into research, plans and models with respect to the development of the barrio and of the cities of Aruba.

Minister Sevinger thought it wise to set up an exposition of all this information where the public can experience the results of the various forums. To show how the desires of the people were incorporated

into the "Renobacion Urbano" (urban renewal) project.

The exposition will be open as of March 26, this coming Saturday, from 9:00 in the morning. During the exposition, various experts will be present from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to answer any questions and to explain the work of the renovation program and its process.

The exposition will take place in Oranjestad in the Caya Betico Croes (Main Street) in front of the Aruba Bank. An invitation is extended to all of Aruba to come and see this exposition and experience personally the direction in which Aruba's development is going, especially with its focus on elevating the 'Aruba Product' for our own people as well as for our many visitors.

Some of the projects have already begun. The photo shows Minister Sevinger in the exposition hall observing how the preparations are progressing for the opening of the exposition on Saturday.

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ACROSS

1. Lackluster
5. Interrogate
8. Actress
12. Actress Skye
13. Hawaiian wreath
14. Boats like Noah's
15. Flat bell
16. Famed Giant Mel
17. Uproar
18. Four-star officer (abbr.)
20. Animation unit
22. Not here
24. Acts as emcee
27. Places for mowers
28. Barnyard fowl
29. Stool pigeon
31. Turf
32. Dr. Casey
33. "___ Maria"
34. Liverpool's locale (abbr.)
35. Time periods (abbr.)
36. Like often-washed jeans
38. Pond dwellers
40. Is concerned
41. NYC transit org.
42. "Are you a man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
43. Decorate a tree
46. Actress

DOWN

1. Excavate
2. Aussie marsupial
3. ___-Margret
4. Beseeched
5. Isolated
6. Ensemble
7. Room for cooking
8. Malden and Marx
9. Onassis's

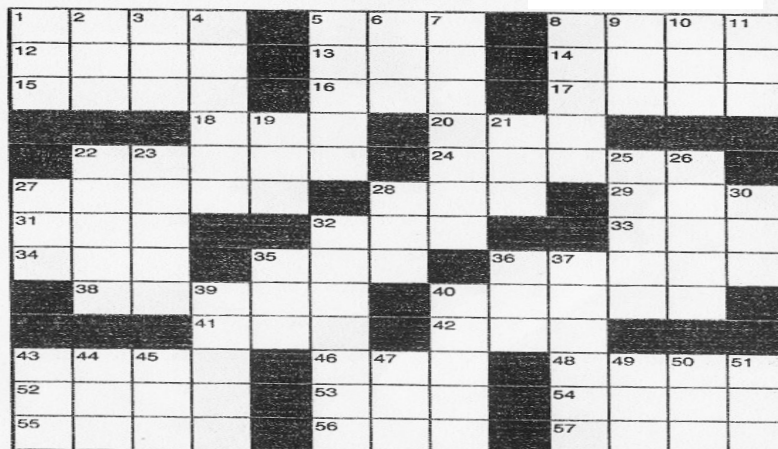
nickname

10. Boxing win (abbr.)
11. New York time (abbr.)
19. Sounds from a poor orator
21. Long, long time
22. Bikini type
23. Yard divider
25. Exchange
26. Reserves
27. NNW's opposite
28. "___ a Rebel"
30. Baseball's Williams
32. Divorce
35. FDR's final V.P.
36. Wide's partner
37. Asian

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- peninsula
39. Television honors
40. Sky streaker
43. Former airline
44. Remove a stitch
45. French island
47. Officeholders
49. Spherical body
50. Sea-___ (Seattle airport)
51. Operation ctrs.



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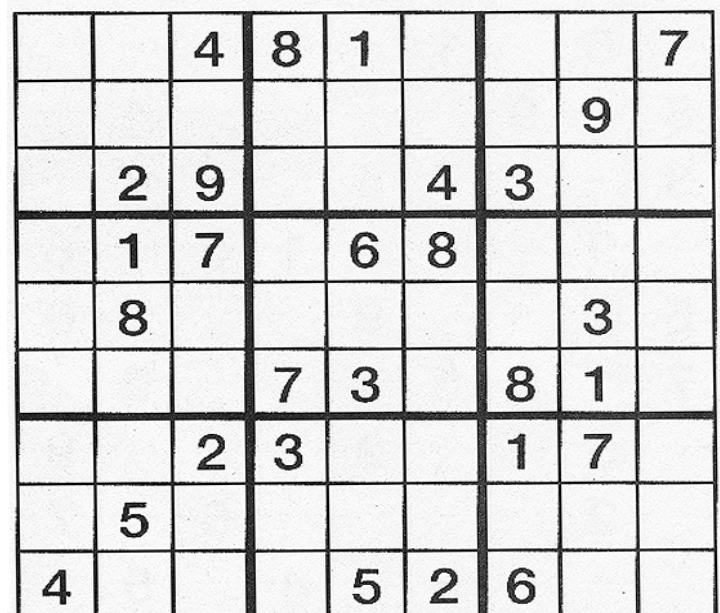
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SOLUTION

8	8	9	2	5	6	1	7	4
4	2	6	7	8	1	5	9	3
5	7	1	9	4	2	6	8	3
2	1	8	5	6	7	9	4	3
9	5	7	1	6	4	8	3	2
6	4	9	8	9	2	7	1	5
8	9	5	4	7	9	6	2	1
1	6	4	5	2	9	8	9	7
7	9	2	6	1	8	4	5	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Germany presses for 'total' oil embargo on Libya



file photo of Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany.

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — Germany, which refused to vote for UN Resolution 1793, Thursday called for a "total" oil embargo on Moamer Kadhafi's regime as some of its EU partners urged an upgrade in recognition of Libyan rebels.

"There's a form of give-and-take being negotiated between these positions" at a European Union summit taking place Thursday and today in Brussels, a diplomatic source said.

Chancellor Angela Merkel joined the summit calling on her 26 partners to tighten the noose on Kadhafi by stiffening oil sanctions.

"I'm strongly in favour of the European Union agreeing a total oil embargo" against Libya, she said, reiterating a speech to the Bundestag earlier.

The EU this week slapped

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

T	A	T	A	A	S	P	C	S	A
A	V	O	N	D	E	L	A	L	L
L	E	N	A	I	T	E	S	U	M
C	R	E	C	H	E	A	N	I	M
I	O	U	S	I	N				
I	C	I	N	G	S	E	L	O	P
R	A	N						E	T
E	N	A	B	L	E	C	O	E	R
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A	R	N	O	L	D	R	E	L	E
R	O	C	K	E	O	N	E	V	A
M	M	I	R	U	E	N	E	R	O
E	S	E	S	T	A	S	L	O	W

the latest in a series of sanctions against the country's oil wealth, notably targeting its top oil firm, the National Oil Corporation.

A diplomatic source said Berlin's call to step up sanctions followed criticism at home against Merkel's refusal to sign up to the international military coalition.

Germany moreover, unlike partners such as Italy, has no economic interests at stake in Libya.

The countries taking part in military action, such as Britain, France and Italy, are less inclined to step up sanctions, said an EU diplomat who asked not to be named.

France however is expected to press for the EU to add political weight to anti-Kadhafi insurgents in the interim transition council by recognising them as "legitimate" rather than merely "political" interlocutors -- the status decided at an EU summit earlier this month.

Earlier in Brussels, Germany's Europe Minister Werner Hoyer said, speaking English: "In the medium term the question of flows of fresh money into the pockets of Kadhafi and his people is a decisive point for his chance to survive the situation."

"We believe that beyond the military activities legitimised by the UN Security Council it is necessary to speed up the process of sanctions against Mr Kadhafi, knowing well that the effect of these sanctions takes more time," he added.

"We will not be satisfied with a solution where at the end we are able to stop Kadhafi from further torturing his people and going against his own people while staying in power and leaving the country in a mess," he added.

"So it's necessary to move up with the non military activities as well and there I think lies the role of the EU."

Arbitration court nixes BP's Russia tie-up

MOSCOW (AFP) — A Stockholm tribunal on Thursday ruled out British energy giant BP's Arctic oil tie-up with Rosneft in a decision that could hit Russian hopes of expanding its share of the world energy market.

The Stockholm Arbitration Tribunal ruling upholds a freeze on the tie-up issued by a London court in February and formally puts a halt to the \$16 billion deal.

The British firm immediately issued a statement saying it "remains committed to partner with Russia" and would seek other ways of completing the historic deal.

"BP has always been and remains fully committed to investing in Russia," it said.

The news appeared to catch Russian officials off guard and is likely to cloud the immediate outlook of the country's largest oil company -- a state-held firm that is urgently seeking international investors' support.

"We only just received this information and have to study it in full," chief Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the RIA Novosti news agency.

The unprecedented share-swap and Arctic exploration agreement was announced with much fanfare by the Russian government in January and was soon followed by a similar agreement between Rosneft and the US oil major Exxon Mobil.

The deal would have handed Rosneft five percent of BP's ordinary voting shares in exchange for approximately 9.5 percent of the Russian company's stock.

The tie-up would have seen the two firms jointly search for oil in Rosneft's three licensed blocks in the Arctic -- a 125,000 square kilometre (50 square mile) region said to contain five billion tonnes of oil and 3.0 trillion cubic metres of gas.

Rosneft has been seeking a Western partner to provide it with the know-how and technology to develop the forbidding region and the Kremlin eventually gave the nod to BP -- a company with a long but

sometimes troubled history in Russia.

The agreement was personally blessed by Russia's prime minister and de facto leader Vladimir Putin and hailed by BP as an important part of its expansion plans following the humiliation it suffered during last year's Gulf oil spill.

But its implementation has been blocked in the courts amid arguments by BP's current Russian joint venture TNK-BP that the Rosneft tie-up violated its own shareholder agreement with the British company.

BP was technically committed to perform all its operations in Russia through its TNK-BP venture but was already working on its own in the vast energy project the country is developing in the Pacific Sakhalin Island.

It used the Sakhalin argument when it was presenting its case to the Kremlin and Putin himself later admitted to being surprised that the agreement was having such difficulties in the courts.

Debt-ridden Portugal vows to do all it can to avoid bailout

LISBON (AFP) — Portugal vowed Thursday to "do all it can" to avert a bailout after Prime Minister Jose Socrates stepped down following a showdown with parliament over his minority government's latest austerity plan.

Socrates, in power since 2005, tendered his resignation late Wednesday, saying he could not govern without support after all five opposition parties voted against his fourth programme in a year of spending

cuts and tax hikes.

The austerity plan was aimed at avoiding the need for an EU-IMF bailout to help Lisbon meet debt repayment obligations, a package similar to those granted fellow eurozone members Greece and Ireland last year.

"This crisis will have very serious consequences in terms of the confidence Portugal needs to enjoy with institutions and financial markets," Socrates said after presenting his resignation to President Anibal Cavaco Silva.

The events in Portugal threatened to derail a two-day European Union summit that got underway Thursday in Brussels expected to finalise the bloc's response to a year-long eurozone debt crisis.

Speaking in Lisbon, Portuguese cabinet spokesman Pedro Silva Pereira said a bailout was not in the "national interest." "What is going to happen in the short-term is disastrous, it means the arrival of the IMF and people are going to suffer more than they have up until now," he said.

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Ellioti's offers fine Italian cuisine and cozy island ambiance



Adriana and staff



Chef Jeffrey Elliot

Since opening in May of 2009, Ellioti's, located adjacent to the Costa Linda parking lot, has established itself as one of the most popular restaurants in the "low-rise" area. Owner Adriana Sanchez has paid a lot of attention to detail and personally presides over her domain with a welcoming smile and a sincere concern for the satisfaction of her patrons.

The eatery is named for Chef Jeffrey Elliot, who was instrumental in establishing one of Aruba's original and most popular Italian restaurants of days past, Valentino's. He has brought his deft hand to this charming new location, offering a diversity of dishes which has earned it high praise

on a number of Internet review sites such as Tripadvisor and restaurantsaruba.com. "A hidden jewel" effuses one enthusiastic customer, "the best Shrimp Fra Diablo I have ever had!" Another reviewer on Tripadvisor credits Ellioti's with "the best Fettucine Carbonara that I've ever had - and I've eaten at a lot of New York area Italian restaurants."

Ellioti's offers al fresco dining on their charming terrace or air-conditioned comfort in the dining room with the ambiance of a cozy Italian home. Fresh homemade pasta at extremely reasonable prices is their specialty, along with authentic Italian treatment of steak, seafood and fowl. Three nights a week the restaurant features live music from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; every Tuesday enjoy piano accompaniment to your meal, on Saturdays Gerardo will enchant you with his gentle guitar.

If you enjoy a social evening with friends and good conversation with your meal, Ellioti's extremely tranquil setting is the perfect place to savor fine food and company. Complimentary tram service around the Eagle Beach Resorts will be happy to drop you at their door. Open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. six days a week, closed on Sunday.

It is recommended you call 588-7329 or 588 9040 ext. 790 to make reservations.



Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or

cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge ser-



a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with

vices to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Mandela Foundation to release book of 2,000 quotes



JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AFP) – A new book containing 2,000 quotes from Nelson Mandela will go on sale ahead of his 93rd birthday in July, his foundation said yesterday.

"Nelson Mandela by Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations" pulls from public speeches as well as private papers, correspondence and audio recordings made over 60 years, the Mandela Foundation

said in a statement.

The quotes are grouped into 300 categories ranging from political topics like "Democracy" and "Racism" to personal musings on values such as "Optimism" and "Courage."

South Africa's first black president turns 93 on July 18, amid lingering concerns about his health following his brief hospitalisation in January for an acute respiratory infection.

French giraffe sinks teeth into US baby market

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) – A cute toy called Sophie the Giraffe, chewed by French babies for decades to quell the pain of first teeth, is now taking a huge bite out of the US market for teething aids.

And all thanks to a California-based Frenchwoman who saw an opening for the diminutive rubber plaything - and secured some celebrity help.

"When my daughter was born in California in 1994, I looked for Sophie, but she couldn't be found," recalls Helene Dumoulin, describing how she hit on the idea of importing the Gallic toy.

Made from natural rubber, Sophie -- smiling, red-cheeked and with brown spots -- was born on May 25, 1961, and has been a staple of French babies' bedrooms and cots for half a century.

But while being a must-have early parenting aid in France the toy, made by French firm Vulli from the eastern Haute Savoie department, was never seen outside its natural Gallic habitat.

Persuading Americans to embrace Sophie was not easy. "To be honest I hadn't figured out how to sell it. And then 20 dollars, it's expensive. Stores that I visited showed me teething toys for five dollars," she told AFP.

"Then I thought, why don't I try selling it in upmarket areas. So I went to Beverly Hills," she added, explaining how, after knocking on lots of doors, she met Teri Weiss, owner of a luxury toy store -- who fell in love with Sophie.

What she didn't know was that Weiss created "gift baskets" for a number of Hollywood stars, from her Elegant Child boutique.

"She came with a duffle bag full of clothing from France. I looked through all the clothing and I really said 'No' to everything," Weiss recalled. "But in the bottom of the bag there was this little toy and I asked her: 'What is this?'"

"She said: 'I have six in the car.' I took the six. You know, I make beautiful baskets, and it looks so beautiful in my baskets."

But then came the real stroke of luck.

"The thing that really changed everything, I think, was Kate Hudson," Weiss said, referring to the Oscar-nominated US actress. "Her son just loved it so much and



then the press picked it up," she said.

Photos of celebrities' babies clutching their Sophies began appearing in magazines, and the Gallic giraffe became a must-have accessory for Hollywood's smart set.

was forced to recall millions of toys due to health concerns.

"Moms threw all their toys away, and wondered what they could give their baby. Sophie was the answer, recommended from blog to blog," she said.



Sophie the Giraffe poses in Teri Weiss' shop in Beverly Hills

"I offered it to all the high-end boutiques, all over. And then I contacted moms' blogs, I sent them sample giraffes so they could test them," said Dumoulin.

Despite the success -- she sold more than 400,000 giraffes in 2010 in some 3,000 outlets across the United States -- Dumoulin only works part time in the evenings on Sophie, after her day job as a real estate agent.

"The packaging was in French, so I had to make the labels myself. It was a painstaking job. Lots of people think it happened overnight, but it didn't. It was a huge amount of work, with lots of tears and frustration along the way!"

The watershed came in 2007, when toy giant Mattel

Made in France with natural rubber, and decorated using food paint, Sophie was welcomed as a no-risk alternative for babies in need of something to chew on to soothe their aching gums.

"Babies love it because it's very light-weight. It's very easy for them to grasp as a newborn. And they love that the little head has bumps. They love to squish it," said Weiss.

"They feel, I think, the sense of power, that they can squish it and crunch it. And the mothers love it because it's made with food paint. It's natural, they are not afraid of it."

"It's a little expensive, but I have found that a mother is very willing to spend 20-25 dollars for her baby," she added.

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Cricket: India end Australia reign, set up Pakistan showdown



India fans celebrates their victory

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) - India swept three-time defending champions Australia out of the World Cup yesterday to set up a semi-final showdown against bitter rivals Pakistan and heap more pressure on Ricky Ponting.

India's five-wicket triumph in Ahmedabad means they will tackle Pakistan, who reached the last four with a crushing 10-wicket win over the West Indies, in Mohali on March 30.

But Ponting was left battling to extend his nine-year reign as Australia one-day captain despite the 36-year-old hitting a composed 104 in his team's below-par 260 for 6.

Brad Haddin made 53 and the recalled David Hussey pitched in with an unbeaten 38 off 26 balls.

Yuvraj Singh then hit 57 not out -- his fourth fifty of a tournament where he is averaging over a hundred -- to see India home with 14 balls to spare.

Sachin Tendulkar missed his chance to clinch a landmark 100th international century but his 53 was crucial as was Gautam Gambhir's 50.

"India v Pakistan semi-finals - it doesn't get any better. The pressure will be big, but in reality it makes no difference to us," said India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

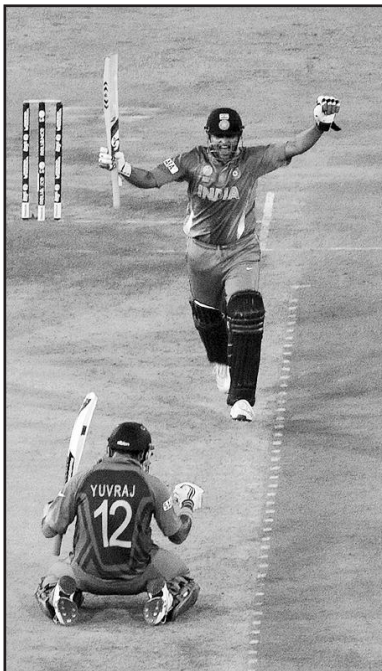
"I'd have been satisfied keeping Australia to 250, but we had our best fielding unit today. I think we saved around 15 runs that we didn't need to chase."

Ponting, who went into the match with senior Cricket Australia officials reportedly keen for a change in leader-

ship of the team, said his side let themselves down.

"With 15 overs to go, it was touch and go, but Yuvraj and Suresh Raina (34 not out) played really well. It's disappointing to bow out. We are a better team than that."

But he was characteristically defiant when asked if he was calling time on his international career.



INDIA, Ahmedabad : Indian batsmen Suresh Raina (TOP) and Yuvraj Singh celebrate after victory in their quarter-final match, India won the match by 5 wickets.

"What did I tell you the other day? Nothing's changed," said Ponting.

Pakistan coach Waqar Younis said he is relishing the prospect of playing the last two matches in India to win the World Cup as his team continued their ruthless march.

Pakistan, led from the front by inspirational captain

Shahid Afridi, crushed the West Indies by 10 wickets in Dhaka on Wednesday to advance to their first semi-final since 1999.

Waqar said it will be "awesome" to take on India for a place in the final at the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai on April 2.

"There is no bigger rivalry in the game than that. We have not played each other in our own country in recent years," he said.

"So it should be very exciting. The two are cricket-loving countries."

West Indies coach Ottis Gibson threatened his senior players with the axe after their humiliating defeat.

"We are very very disappointed with our performance," the coach said. "It's a fact that our senior players have not performed. When the going got tough we did not stand up to it."

Star opener Chris Gayle managed just 170 runs in the tournament, Shivnarine Chanderpaul made 114, Ramnaresh Sarwan just 115 and big-hitter Kieron Pollard scored 180.

The third quarter-final will be between South Africa and New Zealand in Dhaka on Friday with Sri Lanka hosting England in Colombo on Saturday.

England all-rounder Michael Yardy quit the World Cup suffering from depression.

The 30-year-old Sussex left-hander, who played in three matches at the tournament, said he felt he had no option but to return home.

He will be replaced by Adil Rashid.



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INDIA, Ahmedabad : Australian captain Ricky Ponting reacts after a misfield during the quarter-final match of The ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 between India and Australia at The Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera in Ahmedabad yesterday.

AFP PHOTO



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Baseball: Barry Bonds perjury trial resumes with further testimony

SAN FRANCISCO, California A key prosecution witness in the Barry Bonds federal trial testified yesterday that he loaned Bonds' former mistress money for a lawyer after they both had a falling-out with the former San Francisco Giant.

Steve Hoskins, a childhood friend whose family was close to Bonds' family, also testified that he and Kimberly Bell, the former mistress who is expected to testify against Bonds, have spoken several times in the last few weeks.

Defense lawyer Allen Ruby has said he would show that key prosecution witnesses had grudges against Bonds and conspired to help prosecutors convict him of lying to a grand jury in 2003. Bonds testified to that grand jury that he had never knowingly used steroids.

Hoskins said he loaned Bell more than \$10,000 for an attorney, and that she repaid him when she sold a home. He said he also met with her in his attorney's office several times after September 2003, when

the federal government's investigation of steroid distribution in the Bay Area became public.

Hoskins told jurors Wednesday that he recorded Greg Anderson, Bonds' trainer, to get evidence to show Bonds' father that his son was using banned drugs. Hoskins said he wanted the elder Bonds to persuade his son to stop using the drugs.

But Ruby got Hoskins to admit that the elder Bonds was already deathly ill by March

2003, around the time that Hoskins said he made the recording. It implicated Bonds in steroid use. Hoskins testified he never gave the recording to Bobby Bonds, Barry's father, who died in 2003.

Anderson, who served several months in prison for steroid dealing, is currently behind bars for refusing to testify in this case.

Bonds had previously asked Hoskins to investigate an injectable steroid called Winstrol, Hoskins said.

"He just wanted me to find out what (the) specific steroid was and wanted me to find out what the effects were," Hoskins told the jury of eight women and four men.

About a year after Bonds asked him to look into the steroid, Hoskins said, Bonds complained about the physical side effects of steroid injections.

"He just complained that his butt was sore from the injections," Hoskins said, "just that the steroid was -- the shots were making his butt sore."

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Australia's Stosur stops China's Zheng



Samantha Stosur of Australia return a backhand to Jie Zheng of China during the third round of the \$9 million WTA and ATP Miami Masters Series

MIAMI (AFP) — Australian Roland Garros finalist Samantha Stosur defeated China's Zheng Jie 6-2, 6-1 yesterday to reach the third round of the \$9 million WTA and ATP Miami Masters Series hardcourt tournament.

The fourth seed, ranked fifth in the world, has played the Miami quarter-finals for the past two editions, losing to the eventual champion on both occasions, Victoria Azarenka in 2009 and Kim Clijsters last year.

Stosur has been getting off to fast starts, having won her opening match at her previous seven events.

The Australian took just 58 minutes to advance as she never faced a break point but broke her Chinese opponent's serve on six of a dozen chances.

Stosur next plays Lucie Safarova, who beat Swiss veteran Patty Schnyder 6-2, 6-4. Stosur has lost all three of her matches against the 31st-ranked Czech.

The loss was the fifth for Zheng this season, with the Chinese player managing only two wins.

The wrist surgery patient now stands 59th on the WTA list, her lowest since 2008 Wimbledon. Zheng was a Miami quarter-finalist in 2006.

Tenth seed Shahar Peer was bundled out in her first match, losing to Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues 6-2, 6-2 while 11th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova bounced back after a first-round defeat at Indian Wells to dispatch Romanian Simona Halep 6-0, 6-4.

Slovak Daniela Hantuchova put out American Melanie Oudin 6-1, 6-3 while Czech Klara Zakopalova accounted for Britain's Elena Baltacha 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Formula One: New Australian GP circuit mooted

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Organisers said Wednesday they may switch the Australian Grand Prix to a dedicated circuit to keep the race after the expiry of its current contract.

Australian Grand Prix Corporation chairman Ron Walker has identified a site for a purpose-built track at Avalon on the southwestern outskirts of Melbourne.

The Australian race has been staged on a street circuit in Albert Park on the fringes of Melbourne's city centre since 1996, but mounting financial losses have raised doubts about the future of the event.

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Melbourne : An umbrella protectst the cockpit of a Vodafone McLaren-Mercedes from driving rain in the lead-up to Formula One's Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne

Organisers have a contract with Formula One ring-master Bernie Ecclestone for an Aus-

tralian race in Melbourne until after 2015, but a new permanent circuit is viewed as one way of keeping the event.

Last year's Melbourne race posted its biggest loss in five years, costing taxpayers in the state of Victoria nearly \$50 million, which prompted Melbourne Lord

Mayor Robert Doyle to call for the event to be scrapped.

In response, Ecclestone

said: "If we have some new races, some others will fall out -- we don't need Australia, for instance."

Walker said he would approach the Victorian state government after this weekend's Australian GP to investigate the possibility of moving the event to Avalon.

"Now that Mr Ecclestone has raised the issue again, maybe we might go to Avalon and look at the plans," Walker told the Autosport web-site on Wednesday.

Walker said he was confident the Australian GP would continue beyond the contract date.

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